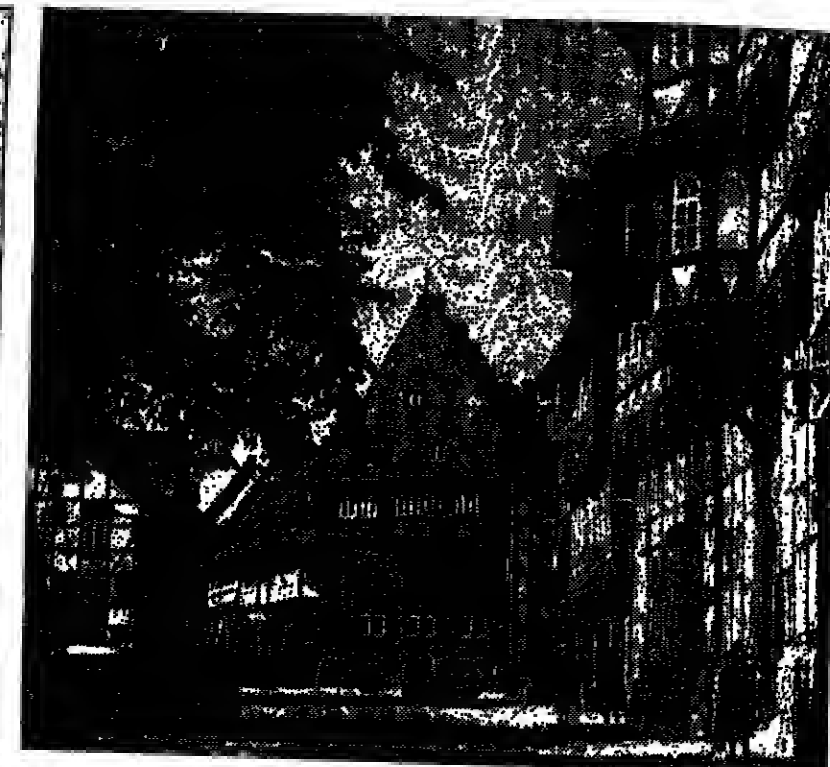
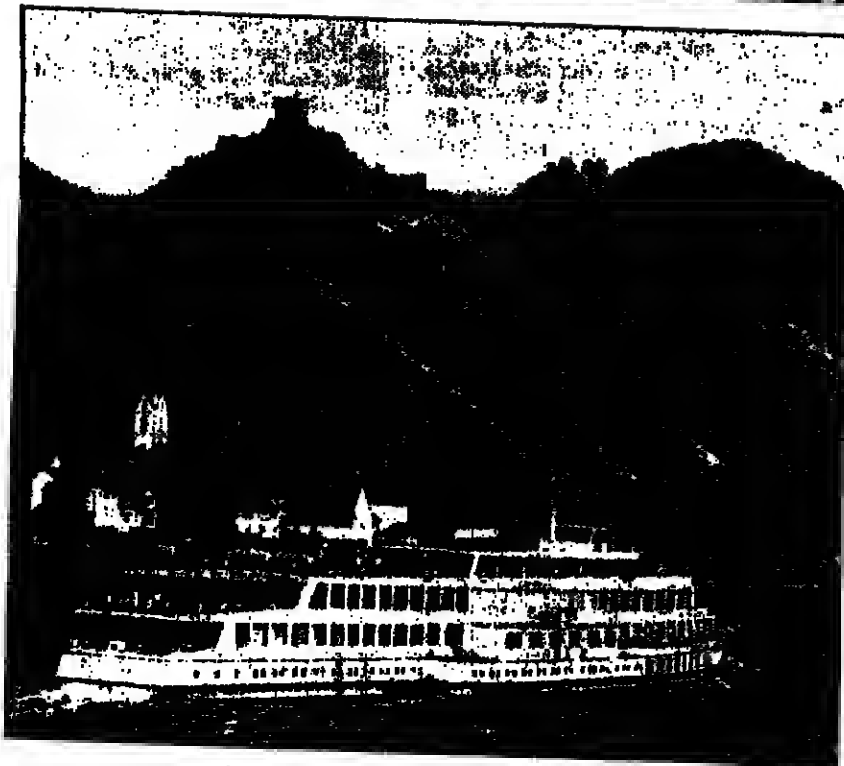


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# The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 26 April 1973  
Twelfth Year - No. 576 - By air

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## Brandt calls for common sense at Hanover

Neither SPD leader, Chancellor Willy Brandt nor his deputies Herbert Wehner and Helmut Schmidt have made any bones about the purpose of the Hanover party conference.

Their speeches were aimed not at the world at large but at forces within the SPD, not at the Opposition Christian Democratic and Christian Social Unions (CDU/CSU) but at fanatics, idealists, opponents of the "system" and dual strategists within the Social Democrats' own ranks.

The Dortmund party conference, held prior to the November general election, was a demonstration of solidarity to the world at large under the banner of Willy Brandt's new political middle of the road.

The Hanover conference, a monster gathering if ever there was one, assumed the proportions of an urgent appeal not to mistake theory for ideology and not to upset the man in the street with learned slogans and verbal extremism.

Subliminal fighting was avoided because Willy Brandt made use of all his personal authority and integrating force, as opposed to the usual stage management, in an appeal to political common sense.

Unfettered though debate was, it was not marked by the scenes of interminable warfare some observers had predicted, and despite the tactical risks involved Helmut Schmidt formulated his opening address as a challenge accompanied by the request not merely to respond with what he termed prefabricated ideology.

He likewise sounded an attacking note with his call for a theory of free Socialism, freedom of consumer choice and place of work, free entrepreneurial initiative and competition - all of which he termed fundamental principles of the 1959 Godesberg Manifesto.

Doses of similar examples could be mentioned, taken also from the speech of Willy Brandt. The Chancellor was equally straightforward and scathing of a "plethora of foreign words" and the "graceful spirit of contempt for the individual".

The only difference between his speech and that of Helmut Schmidt was that Willy Brandt sounded a keynote of integration rather than provocation.

The Hanover conference made it unmistakably clear that there is still no substitute for Willy Brandt as an integrating factor within the Social Democratic Party. This is something even left-wing critics had to concede, irritating though the admission may have been.

Yet not even Willy Brandt's personal authority will be sufficient to prevent the possibility of the next few years being rent by internal conflict within the Party.

In part the theoretical or ideological conflict represents, as it were, the superstructure of deep-seated sociological change within the SPD. Unrest is unquestionably due in part to the Social Democrats' extraordinary success in gaining new members. There are local branches where the membership growth rate has increased from six to sixty per cent in the past four years.

The social composition of membership has likewise changed. In 1962 fifty-five per cent of all new members gave their profession as "workingman" (or wage-earner as opposed to salary-earner). Last year, Willy Brandt said, this percentage had slumped to twenty-eight.

Instead there has been a meteoric increase in the number of university students and young people at school among new members, a development of which the Social Democrats would never have dreamt even five years ago.

At times in the course of the general election the mistaken impression may have been conveyed that the SPD was in the process of reverting to its erstwhile status of being a class-orientated party of the workingman.

At Hanover Willy Brandt made it quite clear that the reverse was the case. The Social Democratic leaders, while not discounting the vitality of membership increases, are well aware of the resulting problems.

Brandt's anxiety was reflected in the reminder that tolerance must begin with one's choice of words. "In debate nowadays we all too frequently encounter an exaggerated jargon assuming the proportions of the secret language of a closed society. Sociological or political science terminology is preferred to straightforward German."

Excited preachers, who despite their sermons can lay claim to neither a congregation nor a Mount, are more interested in "perpetuating rather than eliminating the resulting tension."

The danger of the SPD developing into a caste party with a more or less imperative mandate, the Party being



Herbert Wehner (left), Chancellor Willy Brandt, Helmut Schmidt and Heinz Kühn at the SPD party conference held this year in Hanover

bound by conference decisions, cannot entirely be dismissed.

On the other hand there are reasons for hoping that the choice between party of the intellectuals may be averted as a result of structural changes in the educational system and the world of work.

Willy Brandt made another point, though. It was, he suggested, possibly a consequence of social change that the SPD had lost votes in a number of major cities.

At Hanover the Social Democrats posed as an "open" party in an "open" society. Helmut Schmidt had the following to say to Young Socialist leader Wolfgang Roth:

Marxist analysis - why not? It is obviously permissible. The question is, of course, whether dealing in antiquities, as he called it, whether a Marxist world view was sufficient to gain a majority, it being difficult in any case to hold a vote on, say, Kant or Marx.

There was no mention of a split in the Party at Hanover, which is not, of course, to say how the SPD will cope in the long term with its problem of political denominations.

Hans Schnitzer  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 April 1973)

## SPD Hanover resolutions

The Social Democrat Party, under the leadership of Chancellor Willy Brandt, has passed a number of resolutions concerning the party's future policies.

**Land reform:** Speculation on land and property is to be restricted by means of an increased capital gains tax.

**Housing and rents:** House agents will not be allowed to take part in negotiations for accommodation. These negotiations will be conducted by local authorities.

**Economic affairs:** Retail price maintenance is to be discontinued. This is to be achieved in conjunction with reforms of the Monopolies Commission. By 1976 tax reforms will have been introduced.

**Environmental protection:** Industry is to be held responsible for pollution. Legislation will be passed making industrialists liable for charges incurred in environmental protection.

**Health:** The class system for hospital beds is to be stopped. Preventive medicine is to be stepped up.

**Transport:** Rail and public transport systems are to be given priority over road-building projects.

**Marriage and the family:** The woman's position in society is to be enhanced. Laws concerning the family, marriage and divorce are to be modernised.

**Capital accumulation:** Major firms with a net taxable income exceeding 400,000 Marks annually will be obliged to issue additional share participation in their capitalisation. These shares will be deposited with a special decentralised fund. Bachelors with a taxable annual income less than 36,000 Marks and married men with less than 48,000 Marks will be allocated these shares, but these cannot be sold for a period of seven years.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 April 1973)



## Czech Minister in Bonn

Czechoslovakia's deputy Foreign Minister, Jiri Goetz (left) visited Bonn on 12 April to have further discussions with the Bonn government on the 1938 Munich Agreement. He was welcomed in Bonn by Paul Frank, State Secretary at the Foreign Office. (Photos: dpa)

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## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## Peking honeymoon must not give way to indifference

## DIE WELT

Now that the ice between China and the West has been broken diplomats in Peking have embarked on a frantic search for suitable embassy buildings and accommodation. Now that the Americans have arrived smaller countries are in danger of being relegated to back seats.

The American arrival in Peking is viewed by Western diplomats with curiosity and anxiety. Will the US legation, unassumingly entitled "liaison office", have handed to it on a plate what other embassies have been painstakingly trying to accumulate by way of talks, contacts, official buildings and accommodation?

Now they are on the scene the Americans are incontestably in a class of their own. Seventy-five-year-old David Bruce has a better claim than any of his counterparts to be not only his country's plenipotentiary but an extraordinary plenipotentiary.

What is more, his closest associates Alfred Jenkins and John Mulderidge, the State Department's leading China specialists and scion of the US National Security Council, are also at the top of the tree among foreigners in Peking.

Peking itself adheres strictly to protocol. The order of presentation and seating at state banquets is determined by length of service. The dozen of the diplomatic corps is and remains the Nepalese ambassador, who has been in Peking since 1965, longer than any of his colleagues. But this has no bearing on the political importance attached to diplomatic visits.

So far the British have fared best in forging contacts in the Chinese capital. Since Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home's visit last year the Chinese have felt that of all Western European countries Britain took the most sanguine view of Soviet intentions and was the most logical and consistent in its attitude towards Moscow.

Soviet trade with the West, which stagnated in 1971, improved last year with a number of major capitalist countries, primarily the United States and Japan, but also the Federal Republic of Germany.

Smaller, non-aligned countries, particularly in Northern Europe, have been alarmed at the trend. Would understanding between the great powers be at the political and economic expense of smaller countries?

Trade between the Soviet Union and neutral Sweden, for instance, declined so steeply in 1972 that it fell short of the volume of trade between Sweden and, say, Poland.

On his first visit to Stockholm for several years Soviet Premier Kosygin will be anxious to dispel anxiety of this kind. Moscow has come to terms with the fact that Sweden has concluded a comprehensive free-trade agreement with the European Community. The Soviet Union indeed intends to compete with the Common Market in Sweden.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Kuzmin, one of the best-briefed men in Scandinavia to accompany the Soviet Premier, has preceded his visit to Stockholm with a tempting offer of large-scale contracts to Swedish industry.

What remains of Britain's military presence East of Suez in a part of the world where the Soviet Union is sending in the Red Fleet at a rate of knots also tends to make the Chinese attach a certain importance to Whitehall.

Last but not least, Britain retains close ties with the countries of the Indian sub-continent, and China must see that it strikes a balance in its relations with India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Two British Cabinet Ministers visited the Peking Industrial Fair and negotiations for the purchase of British civil and military aircraft are in progress. It is clear that both sides are keen on close ties.

France has come a cropper in Peking's estimate. The hopes placed in de Gaulle in 1964, when great things were expected in Peking of his policy of maintaining France's role as an independent power capable of all-round nuclear defence against both the United States and the Soviet Union, have long since been dashed.

France was able to play no more than a verbal role in Vietnam, and its reputation as the leader of the Common Market and a world power has been sadly tarnished.

Paris may have a diplomatic staff of forty in Peking, second only to the Soviet Union with 47 and a substantial establishment in comparison with the sixteen members of the British embassy.

But numbers alone do not count, a fact that is borne out by the size of the Soviet establishment, which along with the other Warsaw Pact countries chooses to ignore the rest, apart, that is, from the Rumanians, whose efforts to achieve a greater degree of independence are appreciated by the Chinese.

What remains unclear is the importance that will be attached to two newcomers to the Peking diplomatic scene, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Particular importance necessarily attaches to Japan, the enemy of old and current competitor for influence in Asia. Trading relations and economic cooperation between the two may prove of major significance, and in the political context of Asia it will depend to a large extent on

Japan whether or not Soviet plans to isolate China can be implemented. Peking is thus tensely following Tokyo's vacillation between tempting Soviet offers of cooperation in the economic development of Siberia and bitterness over Moscow's intransigence on the issue of the Soviet-occupied northernmost Japanese islands.

In recent weeks the economic rapprochement between Japan and the Soviet Union would seem to have been followed by a cooling-off period in China's attitude towards Tokyo. The newly-arrived Japanese ambassador is hoping to sound out the situation in an interview with Premier Chou En-lai he has requested. At this meeting he will, on behalf of the Japanese government, extend an invitation to the Chinese Premier to visit Tokyo.

Whether Rolf Pauls, this country's ambassador, who is due to arrive in the Chinese capital on 16 April, will have the opportunity of a top-level encounter remains to be seen. It is anyone's guess whether the Chinese are interested in any such meeting.

Viewed from Peking this country may be an important factor in European developments but its foreign policy would seem to bear the stamp of anxiety to please all and sundry at the same time.

Chinese officials express polite appreciation of the difficulties facing Bonn and do not yet seem to have reached a definite opinion as to the role played by the Federal Republic.

At all events, what has been called the honeymoon in relations between Bonn and Peking must not be allowed to give way to an everyday atmosphere of diplomatic indifference. This is a grave danger and deliberate foreign policy moves must be undertaken by both sides to ensure that ties remain close and cordial.

Attempts must be made to bring about practical improvements in relations in various fields. There is nothing to be gained by making declarations in general terms and giving rise to expectations that are not fulfilled.

The weeks to come could prove critical since what is involved is the maintenance of the impetus associated with the establishment of diplomatic ties between Bonn and Peking and the cornering of a slice of the diplomatic cake in Peking that will ensure this country an adequate part in debate.

A great deal will depend on the instructions the ambassador brings with him from Bonn.

Gerard Ruge

(Die Welt, 9 April 1973)

## Moscow moves to win friends in Scandinavia

Swedish firms are to help set up a giant wood-processing combine in Siberia, and according to complementary sources, negotiations with other major Swedish firms are under way for the supply of fish-meal processing equipment, medical apparatus and business machinery.

In the past Moscow has almost exclusively bought steel, paper and footwear in Sweden. Premier Kosygin's visit indicates that further trade contacts are nearing the end of the preparatory stage, though Soviet comments would make it appear that crucial terms have yet to be negotiated.

Payment and credit terms are at stake, not to mention the acceptance of Soviet exports, including industrial goods, in return and willingness to agree to technological cooperation between enterprises in both countries.

Is political cooperation also involved? In the context of Premier Kosygin's visit, Pravda has expressed the desire for

inauguration of the European security conference in Helsinki by this summer.

Sweden, which is participating in the preliminaries and considers itself independent of the United States, Moscow's protagonist, is evidently to be canvassed for support.

An improvement in relations between Moscow and Stockholm could also create a favourable impression in Oslo and Copenhagen, both of whom are worried by the Soviet naval presence in Scandinavian waters.

The visit to Sweden by Premier Kosygin and a team of specialists will be followed by a further full-scale Soviet visit to Scandinavia. President Podgorny is to visit Helsinki for the celebrations of the anniversary of the Russo-Finnish pact.

A number of major issues must be clarified in Finland too, the coordination of Finnish cooperation with Comecon and the terms of the Finnish trade agreement with the Common Market, which has already been signed but has yet to come into force.

In neutral Northern Europe the Soviet Union is making an all-out attempt to win friends and influence people.

Inimmet Birnbaum

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 April 1973)

## Brandt-Gierek meeting in the pipeline

The long-planned meeting between Bonn Chancellor Willy Brandt and Polish leader Edward Gierek could be held early this autumn. A preparatory diplomatic activity is currently occurring in the Polish capital.

Consideration is being given to the possibility of a preliminary encounter between Foreign Ministers Stefan Olszowski and Walter Scheel, a meeting that would do nothing to do with the long-standing invitation to Foreign Minister Scheel to visit Poland.

Walter Scheel's official visit would probably be held a number of months after the summit meeting and not in autumn, as at present envisaged.

Relations between Bonn and Warsaw have taken on a new look since common sense made by the Polish Party leader Poznan. General Secretary Gierek met the victims of the Nazi regime and the right to reparations, yet at the same time advocated closer economic cooperation with the Federal Republic.

Bonn's attitude towards reparations has to date been consistently negative. This country maintains that Poland has for years renounced its right to reparations by the terms of international law.

Poland, on the other hand, shows modicum of flexibility on the issue, willing to limit its claims from Bonn to appropriate proportion of the reparations payments it considers it owed by the German Reich.

The Polish government also prepared to take into account the sustained as a result of the expulsion of German nationals from the G. Eastern territories.

Poland even seems prepared to matters relating to reuniting split Polish officials generally deny their connection between this issue and the reparations payments, but some do link exists.

By the time Brandt and Gierek agree on the long-planned economic and scientific and technical exchange treaty is expected to have reached. A number of major industrial ventures may also be ready for signature. These include tractor manufacture, electronic and, possibly, chemicals.

Where the summit meeting is to be held is as yet uncertain. The Polish suggested an encounter on a visit to the Baltic, but this plan has probably been abandoned by now.

Following the visit to Bonn by Party leader Leonid Brezhnev, the leader should have little difficulty visiting this country.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 April 1973)

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## LAW REFORM

## Legislation to amend marriage and nationality laws

The cosmopolitan age has arrived in all its glory. The Ministry of the Interior is currently drawing up an amendment to the regulations governing nationality under which children of a mixed marriage can claim two nationalities.

Statistics have calculated that if people of dual nationality always marry others of dual nationality, the next generation will possess quadruple nationality and the seventh generation will be able to describe themselves as citizens of 128 States — and there are not many more countries in the world than that.

But Bonn does not plan similar inflation in the amendment to the laws governing surnames — in future families will be restricted to two names. At present families bear the name of the husband though the wife can append her maiden name to the family name by simply expressing a wish to this effect before a registrar.

Under the new marriage law approved by the Cabinet husbands will be able to opt for their wives' maiden name as the family name. The family could also bear a double-barrelled name composed of the surnames of both the husband and wife.

Administrators in the Federal states have expressed their doubts as to whether this course is advisable. They fear that the increase in double-barrelled names will prove an obstacle to the identification of individual citizens.

They claim there is great danger of criminals adopting the name of their wife or forming a double-barrelled name in order to avoid being listed on criminal records. Keeping computer records of ordinary citizens would also prove more difficult, they add.

The Ministry of Justice has taken these objections into account and proposes that no surname should consist of more than two elements. If both marriage partners have a double-barrelled name, no more than two elements can be chosen as the future surname.

Nobody will be allowed to have more than a two-element surname, a ruling that also applies to the children of parents with double-barrelled names. But the law allows a free choice as to which elements are chosen.

Take for example a case if which the bridegroom's name is Müller-Altman and the bride's Schulze-Westrum. On marriage they could adopt the surname Müller-Altman, Schulze-Westrum, Müller-Westrum, Schulze-Altman or Altman-Westrum.

The order of names can also be reversed. Families are also free to opt for just one of the four elements. They can therefore choose one of sixteen variations.

Even greater confusion may be caused by the amendment of the nationality law applying to marriages between Germans and foreigners. At present children of such marriages inherit the nationality of the father. The child of a German father and foreign mother thus remains German. But the child of a German mother and foreign father has the nationality of its father.

"The new law takes into account modern ideas about the position of women. We plan to amend the law during the current legislative period," a Ministry of the Interior spokesman commented.

But it is not merely a question of equal rights for women. The new legislation should also simplify the situation for children of mixed-nationality marriages. Their present legal position is so unsatisfactory that three courts have already suspended proceedings and referred cases to the Federal Constitutional Court.

A German woman married to a Spaniard was not granted a Federal Republic passport for her children. The Federal Court of Administration refused to confirm the decision as the law was not compatible with Basic Law.

The Frankfurt Court of Administration

has also referred a case to the Constitutional Court and even the Federal Court of Justice has now delivered a protest. After his marriage with a German secretary had been dissolved a Persian claimed custody of their child under Iranian law as the child was Persian by birth.

The current regulations often lead to odd situations. Passport authorities in Lower Saxony for instance refused to grant a Federal Republic passport to the son of a Greek father and German mother.

But the young man had already done national service and the authorities were loath to admit they could not recognise a person as German on joining the armed forces and then adopt a petty attitude when he applied for a passport. But the young man's sister is still waiting for her passport.

Children of mixed marriages will in future be granted the nationality of both parents. As multi-nationalists are not however "a good thing", children will have to decide which nationality they wish to adopt at the age of eighteen.

The only problem is that many States do not allow their citizens to renounce their nationality. In a number of generations this could lead to a cosmopolitan class hearing the nationalities of nearly all the countries in the world.

Though it may be pleasant to feel at home in so many countries, there is one snag. To fulfill his obligations to his country, any member of this new cosmopolitan class would have to do national service for all States of which he is a citizen. There is also the problem of taxation.

Some twenty thousand children a year would be affected by the amendment to the nationality laws. One advantage is that fathers from Islamic countries for instance could no longer claim custody for their children when a mixed marriage broke up.

Though the new law cannot prevent fathers abducting their children, it does give this country's ambassadors a better chance to clarify the situation. Today authorities abroad can accuse diplomats of intervening in internal affairs as the children are not of German nationality.

Horst Zinnermann

(Münchner Merkur, 2 April 1973)

## Abortion law reform has not revealed all

usually so important to them when deciding to have an abortion. Other issues are involved. They want to continue their education, enjoy the independence of single life, not be bound to the home while their child grows up or carry on working.

The fact that this attitude exists may be self-evident to many people but few admit it outright. Supporters of legal abortions in the first three months of pregnancy usually prefer to speak in abstract terms, claiming that every child has the right to be a wanted child.

Faced with so much pathos, people find it hard to speak of the other aspects of the issue, let alone recognise them as grounds for abortion. A person's real needs are always considered for what they are in other sectors, especially at the level of local politics. But when principles and values are involved as in the discussion of abortion law reform, human interests have to be couched in abstract terms.

Many opponents of the three-month solution have recognised only too well

that all the poignant arguments for legalised abortions in the first three months of pregnancy are often based on nothing more than consideration for the selfish interests of the mother or parents.

In an attempt to stop what they consider a permissive step, opponents of the reform, at their head the representatives of the Catholic Church, have adopted a similar course to that of the Bill's supporters.

Life comes first, they claim, and use this slogan in all discussions of the problem. But the intensity with which they attack the three-month solution as the product of evil and the phraseology they employ in many of their public statements reveal that the clergy and Christian politicians are worried about much more than abortion alone. They fear that society could rid itself of all taboos and adopt all sorts of freedoms.

The term "protection of life" is often used as no more than a defence against unrestricted self-determination. The Churches' traditional inhuman attitude towards sex must also play a major role.

Opposition to legalised abortion must sometimes be seen in the psychological light of opposition to individuals enjoying sexual pleasures without punishment. But complex and ambiguous aspects of this type always crop up in such a basic issue as abortion — on both sides.

Peter Heikel  
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 6 April 1973)

## Guilt no longer an aspect of divorce procedure

WELT SONNUNG

Verdicts on the divorce law reform now approved by the Cabinet take into account existing legal conditions. Proceedings are based on the principle of guilt and a husband wife can apply for divorce when partner has offended the law matrimony.

The consequences of the law depend on who is judged to be the party. Decisions on the custody of children and the award of maintenance are made with the principle of guilt in mind.

The principle of guilt also plays a role in demands for a reform of the division of the household and regulations governing surnames. The principle of guilt and the results of divorce are therefore closely linked.

But the new law will no longer account of the guilt principle. It will in future be granted when the finds that a marriage has broken up. This solution will avoid the present-day practice of punishing a partner who is guilty of divorce. In future if the partners have lived for one year or more and both divorce.

Three years of separation are demanded if only one of the marriage partners divorce. But that does not mean divorce is automatic after three years. The other partner will have the opportunity of putting forward evidence to demonstrate that marriage still exists, though this is far from simple.

But the inconvenience caused existing laws should be eliminated. A marriage that only exists on paper will be dissolved after a period of separation.

The maintenance clauses contained in the new Bill represent a considerable improvement on current practice. Now the guilty party has had no claim maintenance, leading to cases of hardship such as when the party is the wife who has to take care of a number of small children. The new law will help eliminate cases of this kind.

The principle of guilt is no longer employed when awarding custody of children. Instead the decision will be made with the good of the child in mind.

Divorce proceedings too are reformed. Divorces are currently the responsibility of the *Landgericht*, consequences arising from a divorce of the *Anteigent*.

In future special family courts will be set up under the *Anteigent* to deal with all aspects of divorces cases. Only all aspects of divorces cases. Only a session will be necessary to grant divorce, award custody of the children and settle the question of maintenance.

A remarkable feature of the reform is that the old term "suo for divorce" will be replaced by "apply for divorce". The phraseology helps take the proceedings as an application for divorce no longer represents a contest between two parties.

It also shows the two parties the steps they wish to take. The proceedings take place separately, subsequent sessions to award custody of the children and settle the question of maintenance.

K. Pohlmann

(Welt am Sonntag, 1 April 1973)

## MASS MEDIA

## Prix Futura in Berlin

Prix Futura, the international television competition organised by the ARD and ZDF television channels, closed in Berlin on 5 April. Prix Futura is sponsored by the Berlin television company. A gold award was made for the first time in the competition's history.

When awarding prizes, the jury was more concerned with the human element than with quality and audience appeal. The gold award was given to a BBC report on medical experiments on human guinea-pigs. It was not a great artistic production but the human element was stressed.

Silver awards went to similar scientific productions — an ORF report on the work of Nobel prizewinner Norman Borlaug cultivating strains of corn in Mexico and a Swiss report showing the limited resources of the Earth and appealing for a stop to industrial expansion. Both productions were of average quality.

The *Dogs*, a Swedish production, received the bronze award and it was the only programme shown that seemed tailor-made to the medium of television. The Japanese production *Hope for human beings* was a scientific report on the welfare of children with congenital disability.

Most of the awards were made without consideration of the audience. Most people soon switch programmes they consider boring, and most scientific productions come into this category.

Most of the contributions spotlighted an unreal future far beyond our thinking, mainly illustrating the changes made and claiming to put themselves at the service of this process of change.

To turn once again to the much-discussed question of East Bloc participation following the conclusion of the Berlin Agreement, the Bulgarian member of the jury did not turn up and reports from Sofia claimed he had to undergo an operation.

This prompts the question of whether the Eastern European countries prefer to stay away because they are not ultra-keen on change despite the fact that they write the word revolution large on their banner. But the East Bloc cannot be so conservative as not to see the future as a field for change.

Changes are occurring in China, as three films revealed. More than Oriental wisdom is involved here, it is a matter of politics even though the films themselves were largely non-political.

Attempts by the television nations of the Third World to spotlight change were also successful. These include the Pakistan entry about the reconstruction of a sunken city and the Jordanian entry about the building of a railway line to bring new life to the desert. But the poor means of production at the disposal of these countries must always be taken into consideration.

It can generally be said of the entries from the highly-developed television nations that a mood of common sense has once again set in. Fantasy is no longer demanded. No science fiction was offered and futurology was more rational than speculative.

A clear tendency to stress the educational aspect was witnessed. Dreams of the future were always based on reality. This is particularly true of two entries from Scandinavia. *Deep-Frozen Teacher* from Finland made a rational

attempt to pursue the problem of environmental pollution to its logical end. The Swedish entry *The Dogs* dealt with four men and a woman who live in a bunker after a nuclear war. They suddenly notice dogs on their television screen but quickly realise that the dogs are seriously injured humans staggering across the countryside.

The inhabitants of the bunker know that other people who left their bunkers to help their fellow-humans perished but that does not deter one of their number from entering the outside world.

He dies alongside the people he meant to save, killed by shots from the bunker he had just left. The last human beings save themselves by resorting to murder. Depiction is pregnant, no superfluous word is spoken. Though a picture of the future, its degree of realism is deeply impressive.

The British entry *Chosen Family* is based on the belief that a revolution of mankind should take place and not a social revolution.

The joint Swiss-Italian production *Competition* deals with a group which annually selects a virgin to enter the largest institution in the town — in other words a brothel.

Public order has become so perfected in this dream of the future that any violation is punishable. Performances were excellent and the cold alienation of all emotions was convincing.

Another person's child, the Belgian entry, dealt with all aspects of artificial insemination. The psychological side was never forgotten, revealing the broad range of problems involved.

*Twenty Million Cameras, Citizens*, the French entry filmed in Canada, turned to the general inflation developing in that country's range of television programmes. The most interesting entry from the Federal Republic was Hannu Brühl's report *Planning for the Status Quo* — the *Motor Car for Example* as it also had a touch of humour.

Wolfgang Paul  
(Der Tagesspiegel, 6 April 1973)

## Editorial freedom in broadcasting

partial or total incompatibility of these demands with current broadcasting laws.

No broadcasting company has so far approved an editorial statute granting staff even a consultative position, let alone a true share in decision-making. But a number of directors-general have issued guidelines which take into account some of the demands raised by editorial committees. This action has evidently been taken in order to make the formal establishment of editorial statutes appear superfluous.

Most progress towards drawing up an editorial statute has been made by North German Radio (NDR), where the administrative board has authorised the director-general to discuss the issue with the editorial committee.

The NDR also asked Dr Wolfgang Hoffmann-Riem, an expert in constitutional law, to compile a report on a statute already proposed. This clear, painstaking and well presented report has now been published in book form, enabling all those concerned — which should include the television viewer — to form an opinion on the pros and cons of the issue.

Dr Hoffmann-Riem is of course unable and unwilling to ignore the director-general's right to take the final decision. Reading through his report, it can easily be understood why some television executives have not exactly welcomed it.

Dr Hoffmann-Riem turns to administrative sociology to differentiate between hierarchy, democratic and mixed hierarchical-democratic administrative forms.

He therefore points out the

"The hierarchic form typified by a pyramid structure leading up to a single head" dominates in State administration — and broadcasting companies.

"But it is doubtful whether and, if so, to what extent a strictly hierarchic structure is indispensable to the methods of broadcasting considering its special characteristics," he comments, "especially as broadcasting administration should not be State administration..."

"Broadcasting companies must do their utmost to make allowances for the special nature of their purpose — the communication of information and opinions. As the fulfilment of their duties depends to a high degree on the creative initiative of all members of staff, administration must also ensure that enough scope remains for developing programmes of high quality."

"Broadcasting laws do not rule out a situation in which those members of staff

Wolfgang Hoffmann-Riem: *Redaktionsstatute im Rundfunk* (Editorial Statutes Broadcasting Stations), Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden, pp. 197, 44 Marks

involved in programme production enjoy the room for manoeuvre recognised as necessary for carrying out their duties," Dr Hoffmann-Riem adds.

"The director-general has the power to introduce more cooperative forms which will give members of staff greater incentive in their work. But a cooperative structure presupposes that the members of staff covered are legally entitled to

## Sex and politics at Konkret

Editors of *Konkret* the left-wing weekly with an audited circulation of 240,000 have begun to explore the limits of an editorial statute passed twelve months ago, granting them an extensive share in decision-making.

They demand that publisher and major partner Klaus Rainer Röhl should no longer exert influence on editorial work and that Klaus Steffens, a director and minor partner, should quit the firm altogether.

"If the editorial committee's decisions are not recognised by the owners, the editorial staff will make use of their right to strike," Hermann L. Gremiliza stated.

Röhl reacted immediately, interrupted his holiday and dismissed Gremiliza and three other editors. When the rest of the editorial staff — apart from Röhl's brother Wolfgang — expressed their solidarity with the dismissed editors and went on strike, Röhl sacked them too.

But the editors do not consider themselves dismissed as the editorial statute states that a majority decision is necessary. But Röhl believes that the editorial statute no longer applies. When circulation drops below ninety thousand, the publisher is no longer bound to the laws of participation.

Circulation is also the main cause of the dispute. Gremiliza and his colleagues have included more left-wing politics in the publication in recent months while Röhl believes that there has not been enough sex or entertainment. Circulation dropped.

Röhl therefore plans once again to print more readable non-political material though without banning politics from the pages of his publication altogether. This policy has helped him keep *Konkret* in business for the past eighteen years while practically no advertising.

Hans J. Geppert  
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 6 April 1973)

take decisions and actually in a position to do so."

The report is of considerable importance as it demonstrates that editorial statutes are legally admissible in broadcasting companies though staff have no legal claim to them. Their introduction depends merely on the approval of the director-general (at NDR at least) — the supervisory board is not even consulted.

The report disproves claims that editorial statutes are illegal within publicly-run broadcasting companies. The argument that internal discussions and cooperative decisions have long been a feature of various broadcasting companies can be countered by stating that these principles must not be dependent on the liberal attitude (or otherwise) of the respective director-general.

Dr Hoffmann-Riem also states that an appeal to the public when conflicts are still not settled does not violate the obligation to secrecy contained in the labour laws. An appeal of this nature is justified by the relevance of the conflicts in question to the public and the danger of programme manipulation, he claims.

The current legal situation does not therefore prove an obstacle to the establishment and consistent application of editorial statutes. A share in decision-making for those members of staff employed in programme production is a legitimate short-term aim.

There would be some sense in achieving this as events in other sectors have demonstrated that democratic processes calculated to form an opinion often influence the decisions of top executives, even in institutions with a hierarchic structure.

Marfred Dellwig  
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 7 April 1973)



## THE ECONOMY Schmidt's 'Reasonable budget'

Lübecker Nachrichten

Bonn has been busily debating the draft budget for 1973. The general elections of last November caused postponement of the budget proposals, which are now very delayed. The budget will not come into force until July.

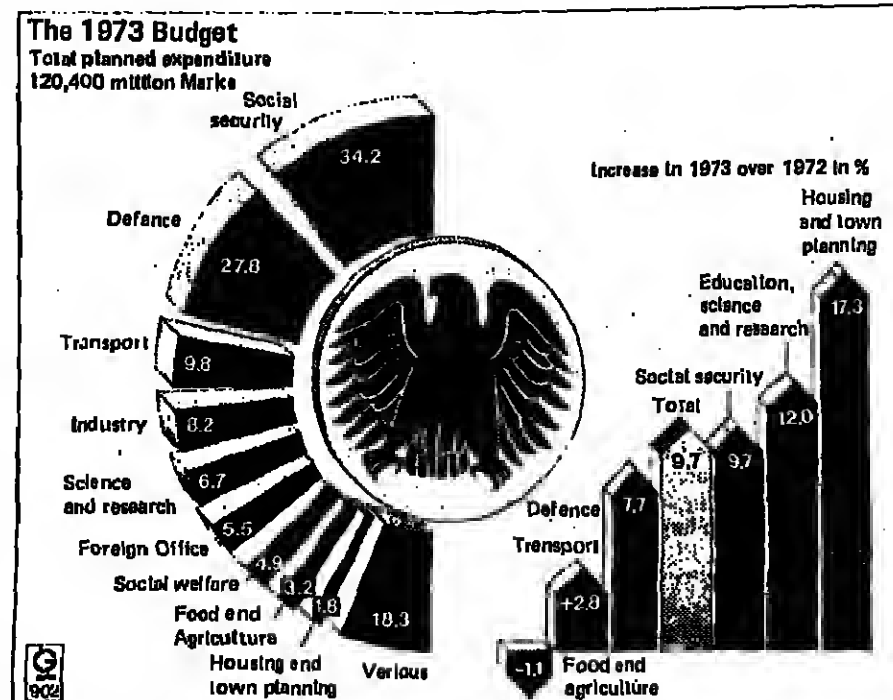
No one person can be blamed for this delay, but it does pose difficulties and problems. The best the government can do is prepare its 1974 budget in good time so that it can come into force at the beginning of the new year and get the whole budget business back on schedule!

Finance Minister Helmut Schmidt who placed his budget proposals before the Bundestag has called the intended government expenditure of 120,390 million Marks "a reasonable budget". The Opposition's obvious line is to attack it as inflationary and certain to push up prices even further.

The truth, as is so often the case in politics, lies somewhere between these two extremes. In fact it looks most unlikely that the government will achieve its aim of cutting price rises back to "only" six per cent by the end of the year and later pegging them back to 4%.

But it would obviously be wrong to place the main burden of stabilising prices on the budget. If government expenditure is cut back too drastically there is the danger that the damage to economic development would be almost irreparable.

The 1973 draft shows a 10.5 per cent increase on government expenditure last year (108,900 million Marks). This is not excessive with the economy in its present state. This rate of increase is not going to accelerate the price spiral to any great



extent. A large part of the planned expenditure is required by law and thus cannot be increased or decreased by the government.

But in addition other demands on public finances are continually growing. Reforms in the spheres of education and environmental protection cost money.

We can now see that the golden vision of sweeping reforms cherished by the government and its supporters three years ago will take years to bring about. The money required cannot be drummed up in the short term.

Inflation does not help, since more money is needed while even fewer reforms can be carried out as it loses its value. The increase in expenditure on education from 6,020 to 6,650 million Marks for instance is just enough to cover the extra costs of building. The additional sum is not sufficient to build a greater number of lecture rooms or create more university places.

The Opposition strongly contests the tax increases which the government will enforce this year, particularly the tax on petrol and oil and the "wealth tax" for

stabilisation purposes on people in the higher income brackets. It is doubtful whether the latter will really siphon off sufficient purchasing power. But the effect of a tax surcharge as suggested by the Opposition is also a moot point.

The five-Pfennig increase in petrol tax hits the working man hardest. He is already finding it hard to afford to run the car he needs to commute every day, and in the main public transport is no answer.

The draft budget does include a number of risks, that could lead to a further increase in the tolerable level of government expenditure proposed - 120.39 milliard Marks. Firstly there are the foreign exchange equalisation negotiations with the United States due to be held this year, then the threat of even higher deficits being chalked up by the railways and posts than bargained for in this budget plan, and last but not least government assistance for coalmining, which has been hard-hit by Mark revaluation and dollar devaluation.

Werner Neumann  
(Lübecker Nachrichten, 3 April 1973)

## Price fixing on the way out, Friderichs claims

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Government and Bundestag seem to be well on the way to abolishing price maintenance. In an interview with the business association's publication *Die Selbständige Economic Affairs* Minister Hans Friderichs said that it was doubtful whether price fixing could be maintained for much longer.

He based his argument on the fact taken by the European Commission namely that it would be impossible to organise price maintenance on a European level and so it will become more difficult all the time for branded goods from the Federal Republic to keep to rpm.

The subject of rpm will be discussed in the Bundestag sub-committee for economics in a few weeks time. This takes place when discussion of monetary law reform next comes up. The FDP parliamentary party is the group that is convinced that not only rpm but price recommendation should be abolished. They will almost certainly propose such a clause be written into the reform.

The Free Democrats seem keen to see the result of a hearing planned for June, but which will probably be postponed till after the summer. Friderichs' statement reveals how FDP tends towards the view that rpm may be also price recommendation should be abolished.

Resale price maintenance affects 165,000 articles, over a half of which being spare parts for cars. One compromise is abolition of rpm. Modifications to the laws concerning recommended prices. Price recommendation may be allowed to remain measures would be taken to put sky-high suggested prices.

The consumer council at the Economics Ministry has also expressed approval of plans to abolish fixed prices. In the past when rpm has been lifted on articles that are always inclined to drop.

Heinz Murnen  
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 April 1973)

## Exports vital

Handelsblatt

About one fifth of this country's production goes for export, according to the most recent weekly report drawn up by the Federal Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Berlin. 1971 the direct and indirect dependence of all branches of industry on exportation of goods and services was 19.4 per cent, with total exports of 194 milliard Marks.

In all demand from abroad led to a productivity of 285 milliard Marks in eight branches of industry (chemicals, iron, non-ferrous metals, machinery, precision mechanics and optics). 30 per cent and more of business is indirectly dependent on exports.

Of the 48 most important branches of the economy 29 depend directly or indirectly on exports.

Gisbert Kuhn  
(Kölnischer Nachrichten, 4 April 1973)

## FINANCIAL PAGE European stock markets - all up and down

Three European stock exchanges, as closely interlinked as the economy of the three countries, have become a victim of the latest currency crisis. Bonn, Bern and Vienna believed that they could not maintain a ban on the free acquisition of shares quoted in Marks, Swiss francs and schillings "in order to ward off unwanted importation of foreign exchange".

Today if a West German, Swiss or Austrian wants to buy shares from one of the neighbouring countries he needs luck or a special contingency arrangement.

So far experience has shown that in Vienna the controls are being treated fairly lightly, the Swiss are taking the ban seriously and German banks are making heavy weather of having to act as intermediary foreign exchange controllers.

The daily dealings in shares in Frankfurt, Zürich and Vienna are carried out behind a foreign exchange dam. The many influences from outside, particularly those originating in international interest rate rises and falls are suddenly no longer having any effect on share prices. This takes some getting used to.

Stock exchange reports at the moment lack the stereotyped reports common in the past such as "foreigners bought today" or "foreigners were not forthcoming". Foreign purchasers often played a decisive role in stock exchange trends. Stockbrokers and banks are now saying with resignation that they have dropped back to the level of provincial stock exchanges.

Foreigners now only find a welcome at stock exchanges with a weak currency, Milan and London welcoming buyers from abroad. Wall Street continues to be at the disposal of Europeans. But the demand for lire, sterling and dollar shares is obviously not very great in the Federal Republic or Switzerland.

America is complaining that there is a lack of European investors. There are thousands of millions of shares seeking a purchaser, especially on the Euro-market. But they avoid stock exchanges with weak currencies. They prefer to wait outside the locked doors of stock exchanges where the currency is strong.

Heinz Murnen  
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 April 1973)

## More mergers

According to the Federal Monopolies Commission 98 company mergers were reported to the first quarter of last year. In the corresponding period of last year there were 97 mergers and in the year as a whole 269.

Mergers must be reported to the Berlin-based Commission if they give the companies involved a twenty-per-cent share of the market or more, or if last year they employed in all more than 10,000 people and/or had turnover of more than 300 million Marks and/or a balance sheet total of more than one milliard Marks.

In the period covered by this report there was a substantial increase in the number of so-called giant mergers. The Commission reports 36 major mergers in the first quarter while there were only 75 in the whole of 1972.

A merger comes in the giant class when the company bought up has a balance-sheet total of more than 25 million Marks, in the case of banks of 150 million Marks and in the case of insurance companies annual premium revenue of at least fifty million Marks.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 5 April 1973)

foreign investments never played a major part at the Austrian stock exchange.

This explains the continued boom on the Vienna stock exchange. Share prices gained thirty per cent in 1972 and in the first three months of this year they climbed by a further ten per cent.

The ban on foreign purchases distorts prices, and this of course applies in Switzerland and this country, too. Normally both stock exchanges would be going through a bear market. Money is in short supply and expensive to obtain and the recent upvaluations of the Mark and Swiss franc mean that exporting industries can expect a decline in profits. Tax increases are threatened. Despite all this Federal Republic share prices have increased by ten per cent since the beginning of the year.

In Switzerland many shares that would normally have plummeted have maintained a good price. While markets were open foreigners were free to shed shares, which would have brought prices down to a realistic level.

Now that contingencies are in force everyone is sitting on his shares. At best people are trying to improve the quality of their holdings without affecting the quantity. Lively exchange operations are under way on these three stock exchanges. This has led to amazing changes in share quotations both up and down. Even experienced stock exchange investors are shaking their heads at this extreme nervousness. Behind the dam there is turbulent water.

At the closed exchanges foreign exchange ghettos have developed. In the Federal Republic and Switzerland dealings have dropped. It has become easier for insiders to influence, or indeed manipulate prices. Those who sit at the source gain advantages from the State as is always the case at a time of dirigism.

The administrators of contingencies who have to check that the quotas of shares held by foreigners do not exceed the permitted level have become nice people to know. They can please themselves who is granted how much. Cute operators are making wise purchases here and transferring them abroad.

On occasions people in other countries have paid premiums on West German shares, in Switzerland, for instance - and vice-versa. If the State wanted to stop these black market dealings it would have to impose special markings on foreign shares, as countries with weak currencies already do.

Since it was closed to foreigners the Viennese stock market has enjoyed a virtual boom. Dealings have doubled. With capital so hard to come by in Austria investors there turned their attention to other countries. But that has changed. Whether they like it or not Austrians are having to invest more money at home. On the other hand

Heinz Brestel  
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 March 1973)

## Weakened Mark

Since the Bundesbank and Bonn government decided to float the Mark against the US dollar without speedy revaluing the Mark first we have had to live with a weakened Mark. Scarcely a day goes by on the Federal Republic currency exchange markets without the bank of issue in Frankfurt having to support the Mark.

Finance Minister Helmut Schmidt, who fought so hard to get monetary and business-economy policies transferred to his department, has seen how quickly a strong Mark can become weak.

Of course the support purchases made by the Bundesbank are only small. It is only small amounts of foreign exchange that are having to be released. A million or so here and there. For a bank of issue that has become used to thousands of millions flooding in while the Mark was strong this may seem negligible.

But we should not overlook the fact that millions are enough to make their mark. The support given the Mark by the Bundesbank and other countries' banks of issue where currencies are floating along with the Mark, shows a trend. Bonn has been too casual in its revaluations of the Mark. It would have been better to get in on the block floating game without making a preparatory gesture.

Finance Minister Schmidt, who boasted himself as the hard man from the Rhine when the first currency crisis occurred, should have remained hard when toughness was really necessary.

The way in which the first currency crisis was mastered showed that the hot-line between Washington and Bonn is in good working order and Washington gave the help he needed in good time. But in the second currency crisis Bonn's guardians of the currency were left to their own devices. They felt that they had to revalue the Mark, and thus added extra weight to the devaluation of the dollar.

Now the picture has changed. Dollars and foreign currency from the Norwegian krona to the French franc are in demand and the Bundesbank is forced to buy up Marks.

But this has its positive aspects. The Bundesbank is being forced to release some of its foreign currency reserves and is thus drawing cash from circulation in this country. This is beneficial to stabilisation attempts. Whether or not this is intentional or pure hazard is another matter. Hans Henning Kroll  
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 3 April 1973)

## Community Reserve Fund

From 6 April this year the European Fund for Monetary Policy Cooperation will be in existence. The simplified abbreviation Community Monetary Fund, or occasionally Community Reserve Fund, promises too much.

There was good reason for political experts on currency matters to choose the lengthier name. It is a more accurate description of their programme. On the lengthy march of Community countries to the direction of an Economic and Monetary Union this fund is designed to become gradually a functioning instrument of a European reserve system culminating in a kind of European bank of issue.

The initial tasks of the fund will be to carry out the duties drawn up in 1964 by the sub-committee of the presidents of central banks of member States. From 6 April, the fund will be legally independent. This consolidation of the legal basis therefore does not change much apart from altering the title of the organisation.

An administrative council will be set up to supervise the fund. It will be made up of members of the sub-committees of central bank presidents. One member of the Commission will take part in sessions of this administrative council.

(Handelsblatt, 6 April 1973)

One handicap under which the fund labours is its enforced conformity to the foreign exchange rulings generally applying in the Community in agriculture which have long since become out of date when compared with monetary realities.

In addition the fund will comply with the agreement drawn up by central banks on 10 April 1972 (the Basle Agreement) with its rules of administration for handling the narrowing of bandwidths between Community currencies, as well as all the tasks imposed if this system is to function technically.

Its next task is to check the possibilities of an expansion of the short-term currency support scheme and a step-by-step amalgamation of currency reserves. The extension of the significance of the fund - which involves centres round the point in time when all members of the fund, that is to say Britain with ERM as well as Italy - join in the system of narrowed bandwidths within the Community.

(Handelsblatt, 6 April 1973)



## MOTORING

# Twelve black marks means a driving ban

Twelve black marks notched up in the files of traffic offenders at the central motor vehicle registration office in Flensburg over a period of two years will in future lead to an automatic driving ban.

Federal Transport Minister Lauritz Lauritzen plans to introduce instead a uniform system of black marks in place of the various practices observed as yet by state administrations in dealing with habitual traffic offenders.

The new catalogue will be debated by Ministry and state officials. Its predecessors were revised at the request of the Bundesstag transport sub-committee.

The catalogue may not represent the sum total of the Ministry's latest measures but the standardisation of the black marks system will interest motorists everywhere.

Four black marks are awarded for criminal offences such as drunken or hit-and-run driving, in which cases the police are in any event entitled to confiscate driving-licences. Four points are also marked up for disregarding right of way and driving on the wrong side of the road when the road ahead is not clearly visible.

Three black marks are notched up against the offender's name in the Flensburg central registry for being hooked with the current headline blood

## Frankfurter Neue Presse

alcohol count of eighty milligrammes, for being caught speeding more than forty kilometres an hour (25 mph) above the limit in built-up areas or more than fifty km/h above the limit elsewhere, for disregarding an overtaking ban and for making a U-turn on the autobahn.

Two black marks are called for when a motorist is convicted of exceeding the speed limit by 25 kilometres an hour or over. The same applies to right-of-way offences and driving a vehicle that is not roadworthy, because, say, of bald tyres.

One black mark is chalked up "for all other offences," to quote the laconic wording of the draft. This is not so drastic as it sounds, though, since offences are only reported to Flensburg when the fine is several times the amount normally charged for a common or garden parking ticket.

Armed with this catalogue the registrars set about their work. Once an offender has notched up six black marks he is sent a written reminder to be more careful. Nine up, and he must retake either his theoretical or practical driving test.

A driver who notches up twelve black marks in the course of two years is liable to forfeit his driving-licence. Indeed, only in special circumstances are the authorities allowed to exercise their powers of discretion.

This is not quite so drastic as it seems, though, since minor offences, as it were, are struck from the record after a certain amount of time, meaning that traffic offenders can start again with a clean sheet if they can only keep out of trouble for sufficiently long.

On the other hand, if they score more than twelve black marks in any one two-year period they are subjected to a psychological test to determine whether or not they are at all fit to hold a

driving-licence. This is on a par with the so-called blot test in which unsuccessful learner drivers are subjected on failing the test three times in succession.

Both the old and the revised draft appear a little too hard and fast to the Bundesstag transport sub-committee. The committee would prefer individual instances to be reviewed.

Many a transport specialist in parliament also feels the black marks catalogue to be too dogmatic, though in comparison with its predecessor the present version is a good deal more subtle.

A good deal less trouble is likely to be encountered by another item of transport legislation, a measure designed to specify the behaviour required of motorists after an accident. Both parties, for instance, are to be legally obliged to exchange their respective insurance policy numbers.

Another measure may not be spectacular, but it will alleviate the current situation as far as the disabled are concerned. Local authorities are to be allowed to declare roads and areas no-parking zones with the specific exception of disabled motorists.

At long last disabled drivers will be able to park outside their homes, even though the road outside may be a no-parking zone. This does not, of course, apply to main roads where even stopping is prohibited.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 5 April 1973)

## Inaccurate speedometers

Very few speedometers in this country indicate with any accuracy the speed at which motor vehicles are in fact travelling. In a survey of 2,555 vehicles ADAC, the country's leading motor club, has discovered that only five per cent of speedometers can be regarded as accurate at speeds of fifty kilometres an hour (thirty mph).

Nearly sixty per cent of the vehicles tested indicated speeds of up to 55 km/h when the car was actually travelling at fifty. Twenty-nine per cent indicated between 56 and 59 kilometres an hour and some five per cent registered what was apparently over sixty.

One per cent of the cars tested were apparently travelling at speeds of less than fifty. At a measured speed of 100 kilometres an hour the speedometer of one car in four indicates ten kilometres more.

(Die Welt, 30 March 1973)

## European driving licence idea hits snags

Seldom have the Federal government and all parties in the Bundesstag been as unanimous as they are in their rejection of current plans in Brussels for a uniform driving-licence in all nine countries of the European Common Market.

Bonn is in principle in favour of a uniform driving-licence but considers details of the proposals drafted by the European Commission to be more scrupulous than realistic.

The transport sub-committees of the Bundesstag and the Bundesrat, this country's Upper House, have been particularly adamant in their objections to the proposal to submit future learner-drivers not only to practical, theoretical and medical tests but also to what is termed a psychological and technical check-up.

This Brussels proposal provides for a full-scale character test of would-be licence-holders, though it is hard to visualise a uniform procedure equally applicable to Scottish fishermen and Highland crofters. The attitude of both Houses is quite simply "no go."

(Die Welt, 23 March 1973)

## Nation-wide air rescue service

The first country-wide air rescue service was officially inaugurated in Stuttgart in mid-March. The service's 140 aircraft of all kinds, ranging from helicopters to twin-engine jets, are at the rescue organisation's disposal.

All of them are now under contract have been catalogued and can be made ready at the shortest possible notice to take off on rescue missions ranging from transporting patients from country hospitals to specialised clinics and sick people home from abroad to shipping needleline, blood and organs.

This service, combining as it does air rescue facilities of the entire country, was initiated and organised by a handful of private individuals, in particular architect Siegfried Steiger and his wife from Winnenden, near Stuttgart.

In 1969 the couple set up a charitable foundation designed to uncover and eliminate shortcomings in the country's rescue services. Their own nine-year-old son Björn had had to wait an hour for ambulance after a traffic accident, had died as a result.

The foundation has raised money to buy ambulances, radio equipment, roadside emergency phones for back roads as well as autobahns and has organised a campaign to standardise the country-wide number to call for police, fire brigade and ambulance in the event of an emergency.

Its latest brainchild is the air rescue service, based at Stuttgart airport and set up privately in conjunction with the Red Cross.

The services are intended to cover expenses. Health insurance schemes are prepared to foot 1,100 Marks of the submitted for an air rescue mission. Local mission per helicopter is likely to involve actual costs of between 800 and 1,100 Marks.

Administrative expenditure is to be financed out of membership subscriptions of twenty Marks per annum. Members' entitles the subscription-payer to 500 Marks worth of air rescue in the event of an emergency.

Maintenance costs, Siegfried Steiger, are a public responsibility, they and ought to be met by the Federal government and state authorities.

(Die Welt, 20 March 1973)

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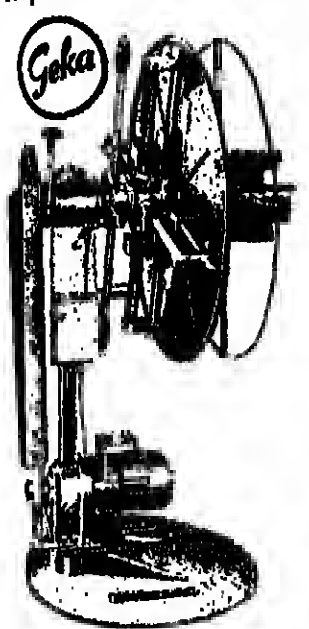
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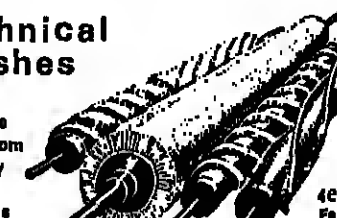
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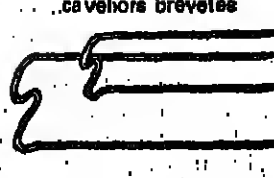
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## CULTURAL AFFAIRS

## To have or have not German schools abroad

Rumors are rife about a proposed scale-down of German schools abroad. Bonn is reported to want these schools integrated into the education system of the countries concerned and the Foreign Office threatens to suspend financial backing if the schools do not introduce the reforms demanded by 1975.

Protests, complaints and warnings to this effect have been common since it was announced that the Foreign Office's cultural department proposes reforms at German schools abroad and since the commission of inquiry appointed by the last government to investigate this country's cultural policy abroad published its first intermediate report last October.

Bonn denies any intention to scale down schools abroad and adds that no deadline has been fixed for reform. But one thing is certain: financial considerations will play a decisive part when measures are planned and clashes between the Foreign Office and the usually privately-run schools abroad seem inevitable. It is a basically old issue that is involved in this national clash of interests: what are the priorities? Should the schools act in the cultural interests of the Federal Republic or should they concentrate instead on providing the children of Germans abroad with a good education?

The commission of inquiry, composed of members of all political parties represented in the Bundestag, and the cultural affairs department of the Foreign Office believe that the main priority should be given to the aspect of culture policy.

The schools should act as social and educational "agents" and, if the case warrants, offer development aid in the education and training sector. Bonn's money should be spent primarily towards this end, the two bodies claim.

As a result of their origins and history the 250 or so German schools abroad are unable to alter course at a moment's notice to meet the demands raised in Bonn. They are being asked to perform a duty that is linked only indirectly with their original role.

The German schools in South America for example were nearly all set up on the initiative of German emigrants who wanted their children to be taught along German lines. These schools were only gradually made available to local children.

Hopes of a good education were the prime reason behind the establishment of the so-called "expert schools" staffed almost exclusively by Germans spending a period abroad for professional reasons.

The "schools of encounter" fit in most obviously with the aspect of cultural policy. Local children have attended these schools all along and bilingual tuition was envisaged for both German and local children from the very outset.

Though most of these schools were set up on private initiative they have long been dependent on public money and as a result dependent on Bonn - much to the chagrin of their governors in many cases.

The Foreign Office's budget amounted to some 350 million Marks in 1972. As much as 120 million went towards covering the running costs of German schools abroad. On top of this there is an annual subsidy of more than 25 million Marks to cover the cost of new buildings.

Almost eighty per cent of school budgets are spent on salaries. It costs an average fifty to sixty thousand Marks a year to send a teacher from this country to one of the German schools abroad.

Bonn feels that this money has so far been of only negligible benefit to the Federal Republic's cultural interests. It mainly financed on education system tailor-made to the private requirements of Germans abroad.

Politicians responsible for cultural affairs policy have made these schools their main target. Both the Foreign Office and the commission of inquiry claim that these schools with their almost exclusively German classes hold no cultural attraction for the local population.

If this is true, they argue, it seems inappropriate, to say the least, for these schools to be financed from the Foreign Office's budget. But so for the countries themselves have refused to take over the costs.

Parents are to be forced to contribute more. Hans Arnold, head of the Foreign Office cultural department, was adamant when he claimed that those persons desiring the service should also pay for it.

Most persons sending their children to these "expert schools" were anyway so well off financially, he argued, that they could afford even a considerable increase in school fees.

Diplomats at any rate need not worry unduly about any increase in the cost of their children's education. They receive an allowance towards school fees, have done so for a number of years.

But the arguments and protests of those affected need not be rejected out of hand. Germans working abroad always represent the interest of the Federal Republic because of their dependence on exports.

And when planning reform measures the government must also take account of those persons unable to pay higher school fees. The Foreign Office will have to arrange a grants system to help these people if the case warrants.

Timetables at the expert schools largely follow the German pattern and there is no need to change them excessively. But the situation is different at schools which also teach local children.

The work of the 117 Goethe Institutes in sixty different countries is not, the *Auswärtiges Amt* (Foreign Office) reassures us, in any way endangered. But by means of restructuring its work is to be improved and rationalized.

The statement in Munich by Hans Hermann Kahle, the General Secretary, that fifteen to twenty per cent of Goethe Institutes would have to be closed for financial reasons was particularly alarming since the work of Federal Republic cultural organizations abroad had long been regarded as indispensable.

There have been repeated reminders that the GDR has been carrying more intensive and more carefully aimed cultural propaganda, not only in the neutral countries of this world but also in the free West.

But the disconcerting rumblings from Munich have been passed off by the head of the department in the F.O. responsible for Goethe Institutes as "premature, and not really to the point in this form."

The work of the Goethe Institutes is to be made more effective within the bounds of the money available for such work. For some time now deliberations have been in progress about whether the present network of Goethe Institutes over the world is the most effective conceivable.

It is obviously a question of whether

German-style time tables have always been used in these schools too, though the range of subjects is increased by offering courses from the local syllabus and in the local language.

This system has the disadvantage that children who will possibly never live abroad are baled with knowledge which will rarely be of use to them. Cases have been revealed of South American pupils knowing all about the tributaries of the Amazon while learning nothing about the Orinoco.

But the decisive objection is that the adoption of the German syllabus usually means that the education authorities in the countries concerned refused to recognize the qualifications obtained.

Envy on the part of host countries and their desire to be totally independent doubtless play a significant role here.

If this state of affairs is to be changed the schools are only left with the alternative of making concessions. Their curricula must be adapted more to those of the host country in order to achieve agreement on the recognition of the qualifications awarded. An agreement of this type was reached with Spain in 1972.

Talk of a scale-down of German schools abroad as a result of this course is felt in Bonn to be exaggerated. Teaching and syllabus will not be adapted as much as possible to the host country's system, as many critics claim, as this could rob the German schools of the very features that typify them.

The objection that it is usually children from the socially privileged classes who are accepted as pupils by the German schools that also teach local children has often been raised but never completely disproved.

Critics point to the example of South America where school associations often represent a specific class with the result that even less talented children with the same social background worm their way into the schools. Cases have been reported of parents offering all kinds of

incentives in order to have the children local dignitaries sent to their school.

But social selection is natural and almost automatic as it is usually people of a socially privileged position who go abroad. A survey conducted at German school at St Cruz on Tenerife in 1972 for instance reveals that fifty per cent of parents were business people, self-employed, twenty per cent were fifteen per cent white-collar workers, per cent public officials and only five per cent members of other professions.

In the host country too high school fees usually mean that it is mainly the wealthy who can afford to send children to a German school. Apart from the desire for a bilingual and possibly better education an important motivation must be the need for social prestige.

Demands have long been made that these schools be opened up to all classes. But that would involve more expenditure as children of affluent parents should have to be granted.

It is obvious that money cannot buy anything. Prejudice on the part of parents and pupils must be overcome. This is a question of years or decades.

But opening schools to all social classes appears imperative for the sake of schools themselves, particularly in developing nations with marked tension and an awakening national consciousness.

In this situation schools can appear as a luxury enjoyed only by the affluent, as an elitist institution. It will then appear as a foreign body in society instead of a cultural educational aid. If things remain as are, the movement aiming at the abolition of German schools could gain momentum.

The only process of social recognition by the public is talent, claims the Cologne-based Bureau for Schools Abroad, a subdivision of the Foreign Office expert for the educational aspects of German schools overseas.

"Talent is the only recognized criterion governing the attendance of a school," particular requirements and private teaching materials," it adds.

But the Central Bureau's guidelines state that the decisive feature is talent. Continued on page 11

## ROUND THE ARTS

Jean Genet's *Les Bonnes* in drag in Berlin

## Frankfurter Rundschau

Jean Genet's first play *Les Bonnes* was published in 1947. In the battle between the two maids against their mistress, a battle that is marked from the beginning as being hopeless and doomed to the tragedy leading to the suicide of one of the two sisters and the scaffold for the other, who becomes a murderer because she survives - in this bitter, hopeless battle, existing only in a ritual, a little of those who are suppressed, we see reflected the ostracism of Genet, his abject pessimism, for which the deed that could change everything appears to be attainable only in the form of a ceremony.

In this country we have only seen Genet's faithful powers of imagination in the wasted down forms, and in *Die Zofen* we see an alienated but identifiable piece of psychology, which the audience in the days since Freud can be expected to get to grips with.

The strange confused attitudes of the frustrated lady's maids, who would also be to go to a soirée wearing an ermine - are something that can be understood and understood, even though they are somewhat exaggerated.

But what if the author's directions had been followed and the three women's roles in the play had been taken by men, during one of the play its last remaining natural feature, adding a theatrical lie to the inherent social lie, so that the audience gave up trying to get to grips with the one part of the play that can be taken for granted - sex? I can understand any director or theatre manager who feels that this risk is too great for him to run.

Nevertheless Dieter Dorn has been brave enough to try it.

In a terribly overfurnished salon, which Alfred Minks has crammed on to the stage, cramming the limited space available even more, under lighting that is so sparse that it evokes all the dirty secrets of the upper middle classes of days gone by, surrounded by bulky furniture which is the real substance of

Continued from page 10

school's selection and entry procedure should be "not the proletarian grand-mother as an administrative principle, but the aims set by the school."

Teachers and educational ideologists have long tried to transform the schools' more social course into a Socialist course and introduce the class struggle into the classroom.

But the introduction of a more social course at German schools abroad also involves teachers. Compared to teachers' attentions on the United States, staff regarded calmly by the F.O. as "wants" confrontations or "useless" with the GDR, but a genuine competitiveness," they say.

One wonders whether this attitude to adopt to the political situation via culture at which the GDR exerts its influence.

At present a local teacher only involves

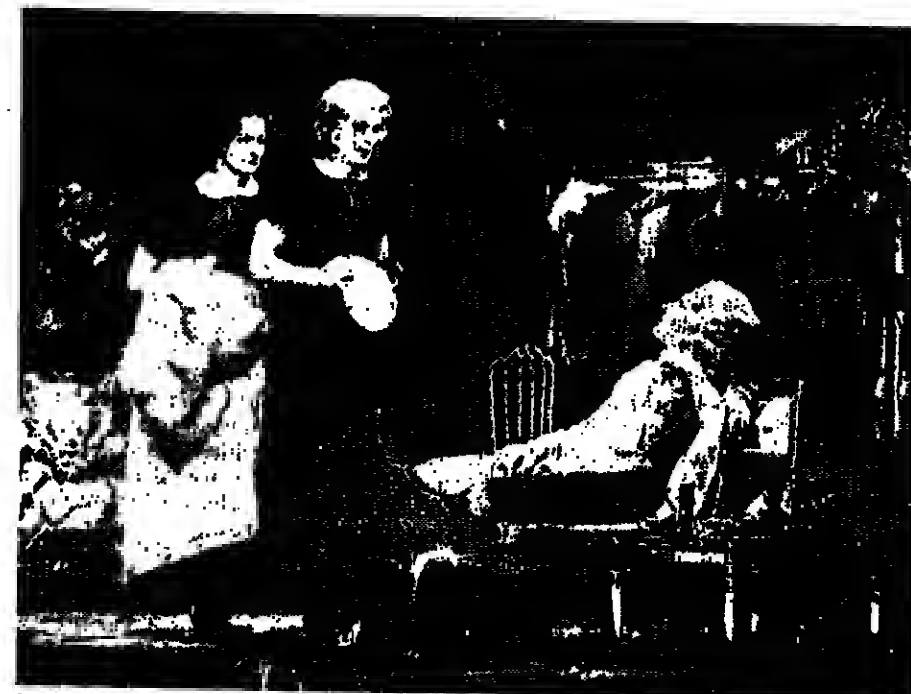
the nightmare of "fine society," Dorn throws in Helmut Griem as Claire light from the first tableau wearing a brassiere and suspender belt for several minutes alone until joined by Solange, played by Peter Matić in the black uniform of the serving wench, with not even the little cross worn at the neck missing from the rig.

Both actors move about the stage with feminine movements and postures that they have rehearsed well, their movements soft and flowing, carrying out the evening's ritual "as" woman and yet speaking with a good baritone voice, Claire dressing herself in silks, Solange "playing" the maid and yet for a second or two when selecting her mistress' robe for the evening dish out the commands like an overlord, then slipping back again into the other role.

There were a few suppressed chuckles from the stalls, but then the spell gets a grip. It is precisely because Griem and Matić succeed in portraying women (the former with greater conviction than the latter), precisely because the audience keeps having to say to itself that the people on the stage playing women are actually men, because the power of dramatic imagination, this unreality incarnate keeps teaching it something new that this production escapes the danger of becoming ridiculous or embarrassing.

The empathy demanded consistently by the actors, which they show to be impossible, gives Genet's play, which seems very outmoded when read, an occult credibility, the dual lie: serving wenches act the part of lord and master, men act the part of women, taking from the text of the play all it has to offer in the way of ruthless realism.

The effect of all this is increased when Thomas Holtzmann comes on stage as the "gnädige Frau". The ridiculous exterior of this role set as a contrast to the deadly and deadly serious captivity of the maids in that an actor cannot just put himself in the role of any upper-middle-class lady. By taking on the role he makes her great, uncannily this mistress is the embodiment and epitome of power and the sister of those who are subordinate to her. She could drink the poisoned cup of tea, if



Helmut Griem and Peter Matić as the maids and Thomas Holtzmann as 'Gnädige Frau' in Genet's *Les Bonnes* produced in Berlin

(Photo: Ilse Uhu)

Neil Simon's *The Prisoner of 2nd Avenue* produced in Hamburg

Fischer Verlag's publication describes Neil Simon's *Dachlavin* as a comedy. But the Thalia Theater in Hamburg has done its best to avoid exaggerating the Simon (born 1927) play, which was written in 1971, and thus dubbing it irreducibly and misleadingly as a comedy.

However, it is certainly not a deadly serious piece of theatre and Hanno Lunin has taken care that his production of it should not let the comical aspects atrophy completely.

The American title of the play is *The Prisoner of 2nd Avenue* and the title character is fifty-year-old office worker Mel Edison, who really must be regarded as a prisoner. He is imprisoned by his flat on the fourteenth floor of a block where he suffers from many of the curses of modern civilisation. Noise (the walls are thin and the neighbours not too fussy about how much noise they make), foul air and food that is ruined by additives.

Again and again he and his wife Edna try to break out, to go to the country, or at least to get away for a fortnight. But they never succeed. Edison remains eaten up by stress, a prisoner of his environment and later of his inner world. He loses his job.

His wife becomes the breadwinner and he suffers deep depressions which are paranoid. He has to have medical treatment. Then Edna loses her job and her nerve breaks.

Neil Simon shows the psychological and pathological development of his characters in an amusing and humorous way. But although with many points to recommend it the play gets lost somewhere along the way between lively contemporary criticism and boulevard style.

It is a joy for actors to perform in this play. The dramatist has had several successes on Broadway and has got into the habit of writing good roles. It is really an extended family situation comedy, a play for two characters, and a better title might have been *The Prisoners*.

The two roles were performed in Hamburg, brilliantly by Gisely Pelzer (returning to the Thalia after a long absence) and Ulrich Haupt.

It is hard to tell where the work of Henno Lunin ends and the creative element of the two protagonists begins. But the pace was tremendous and there were no longwinded. René Dronner, (Hannoversche Allgemeine, 30 March 1973)

Discretion and readiness for compromise are required on both sides. Foreign Office officials must do everything in their power to convince Germans abroad of the correctness of their plans. Little can be achieved at German schools abroad without the goodwill and readiness for reform on the part of those people directly affected.

Dietrich Hochstetter, (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 23 March 1973)



## ■ EDUCATION

## A fair deal for the talented

In its structure and content the education system must make allowances for the complex and extremely varying interests and abilities of the pupil, the Education Commission recommends. School must also consider the social aspects behind this complex problem. Streaming the education system appears to be the most feasible course.

As it is easiest to carry out, the so-called system of external streaming was thought the best solution. It takes all the pupils of one school year and judges them according to their general intelligence, their grades and their performance in the various subjects.

This streaming system has become common in high schools and comprehensives even though it is disputed among educationalists. Hamburg's education department recommends that this system should only be used sparingly.

Experiments have been undertaken in fifth and sixth classes to assist socially underprivileged pupils to achieve more equality of opportunity.

Experiments have also been conducted in the intermediate years of five Hamburg high schools since 1970 to discover whether certain measures are likely to increase teaching success in classes seven to eleven.

The reason for these experiments is the considerable rise in the number of high school pupils since the abolition of entrance examinations. This led to an automatic increase in the number of pupils who found difficulty in learning and raised the question of how to do justice to everybody.

Hamburg decided to conduct another experiment based on the external streaming system. According to the system typed for by the individual school, class six pupils with no grade worse than a three or with no more

## Little support for anti-authoritarian education

Only eight per cent of the population express their full and unconditional support for anti-authoritarian education, according to a survey conducted by the Institute for Applied Sociology, Bad Godesberg.

Thirty-five per cent stated they were completely opposed to education of this type while the largest group - 43 per cent - adopted a middle position. While they supported a number of the ideas behind it, they felt it was basically wrong. The poll reveals that an astonishingly high proportion of the population has heard of anti-authoritarian education. Only six per cent did not know what it involved while another eight per cent claimed the problem did not interest them.

A person's attitude to anti-authoritarian education depends less on whether he is a parent or not than on his age and standard of education. General or partial approval is strongest among the younger age ranges. It was mainly the elderly who had not heard of the term.

People in the survey who had received further education tended to display above-average interest and greater understanding for the whole question of anti-authoritarian education.

Academics are the strongest supporters of this type of education though even in this group only twenty per cent fully backed the method.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 3 April 1973)

## DIE ZEIT

points than 2.5 calculated from grades by means of a formula were transferred to a class described as either experimental or intensive where they passed through the intermediate high school stage in three instead of four years.

Most parents whose children were proposed for the speedier course during the second half of their sixth school year were both happy and proud. Parents are called upon to do more for the school today, leading to more anxiety and obligation, and most were glad to have a year less responsibility.

But objections were also heard at parents meetings - Was it right to isolate those pupils with particular talent? Would the others miss the stimulation? And, above all, weren't the intelligent pupils, as leaders of their class, obliged to help these of weaker intelligence?

But the experiment found a fair degree of approval among those parents whose children were not put forward for the speedier course. "So much is done for those of weaker intelligence that we owe it to the more highly talented to do something for them," was the general tenor of their arguments.

But this apparent logic ignores the counter-argument which the school itself puts forward, making the experiment appear in a different perspective. According to the Education Commission, experiments in Britain and the United States revealed long ago that the early streaming and streaming off of the more talented pupils rarely led to better performance.

Herr Schiele, a Munich educationalist, writes that good pupils display no worse performances in heterogeneous groups than in homogeneous groups. In other

words, successful pupils are always successful.

Asked why an experiment of this type was taking place, its advocates stated that all criticism against it was theoretical as no experiences had been gained in this field in the Federal Republic. Talented pupils also had the same right to encouragement as other less privileged schoolchildren.

Critics of the experiment state that they do not oppose measures calculated to bring the best out of a pupil. But consideration must always be paid to the question of whom these measures actually benefit and what they involve for the other pupils, at whose cost the experiment is being conducted. It is not the select group of pupils which poses the problem, but those in the other classes.

The experience gained during the experiments enables Hamburg's education department to sort its way through all pros and cons. A comparison of grades revealed that the quicker classes were better than their school average but not always better than comparative classes and in some cases their grades were even lower than the average grades found in normal classes.

But it is doubtful whether the same yardsticks are set. "If for example it is more difficult for pupils in the higher-standard classes to obtain a grade three than for those in other classes, it must be asked whether this is desirable," the official report reads.

That means that stress is higher in the quicker classes. Pupils are aware that the demands on them are higher, so more, pay more attention to grades, are more reserved and less spontaneous and are afraid to let themselves down by giving a wrong answer. Interest in the arts is often neglected in order to concentrate fully on the sciences.

A number of educationalists confirm that an elite develops once again in the

ordinary classes, but only because performance is not measured objectively. There is above all a shortage of linguistically talented pupils in the classes.

Pupils in the special classes receive increased pressure they faced in the six months. They may not have an elite, the educationalists claim, they did develop a certain esprit de corps.

Their higher status led to a differentiation of the other group. Teachers found that few contacts existed between the two groups. The studies published by the Education Commission claim that pupils were divided up according to features dependent on social background.

Reports often touch upon the problems faced by teachers. Teachers are particularly aware of the shortcomings in their training and the means at their disposal when taking part in experiments to introduce democracy into the classroom.

Curricula and methods are not effective as they could be. The study should be more varied and, what is chosen to suit pupils' talents, it ranges from offered that determines the differences in intellectual development.

Some teachers would like a system of measuring performance. Grades, they find, do not correctly reflect a pupil's ability. It is agreed that the success of any new attitude, his teaching skill and that he tries to make up for his shortcomings. Criticism of grading systems is being voiced more and more at parent meetings as educational future of the child depends largely on chance.

The general unwillingness to register among twelve to twenty olds appears as though it could be the major educational problem of the future. The causes are only now probed.

If the test with speedier re-deflates the old argument that school ideologically set in their ways and minorities and contributes to a more rational reform of methods and curricula. It will be worthwhile. Sybil Gräfin Schöck (Die Zeit, 23 March)

## German language classes for foreign children in Cologne

suburbs where foreign children can be helped with their homework alongside local schoolchildren. Later, special classes will be set up to improve the foreign children's German and contact between parents and teachers improved.

Ulrich Köchling of the Cologne Catholic Committee, the organisation taking care of the administrative side of the group's work, feels however there is a need to overcome the mistrust of foreign workers who have had past experience of such offers of help. "Foreigners who have been hoodwinked once before will think twice before entrusting their children to Germans," he claims.

Köchling also points out the difficulties arising from the varying political and social structures of these children's mother countries. In Cologne's Greek and Spanish communities for instance there is always tension between supporters and opponents of the regime. These clashes also have a considerable influence on their children's education, as discussions about the contents of Spanish and Greek textbooks in the Federal Republic demonstrate.

But Köchling hopes to overcome most of the political difficulties facing these children's education. "As far as I am

concerned, there is no specific Catholic, Socialist or Communist application table," he comments.

The new group too plans to stay neutral course. "We merely want to help these children the instruction to make their stay in the Federal Republic more pleasant than it may have been to now," Köchling states.

"We are dealing with people," Alice von Bismarck, the head of the group, commented in similar vein. "I want to show the public that foreign workers are a benefit to our society. When one of them cannot speak German that does not mean to say he is stupid, he is merely different."

The human dimension is important in the minds of both Alice von Bismarck and Ulrich Köchling. Claims are made that the conditions in which the children grow up in the Federal Republic only serve to embitter them.

The group has obtained the support of the city education authority in order to gain official approval for its work. Alice von Bismarck has to deal here not only with the children, but with foreign teachers who often have extremely varying views on the world parents and teachers of their own to the German education system.

The group has called upon Cologne City Council to take active measures in caring for these foreign children and to secure its financial backing.

Wolfgang Schöck (Frankfurter Rundschau, 24 March 1973)

## MEDICINE

## Augsburg medical conference discusses life's risks

The modern theory of risk factors discussed at the 51st Augsburg Congress for Practical Medicine was once aptly described by Professor Albert Schrattenberg, the head of the congress, as the legitimate offshoot of the law of probability and the calculation of risks employed by insurance companies. They all have in common the wish to investigate the links between specific patterns of behaviour and life expectancy.

If we warn patients about eating too much at mealtimes, drinking too much alcohol and smoking too many cigarettes, if a risk factor lies in wait behind every pleasure, what is life but one long risk? A doctor asked at the 51st Augsburg Congress for Practical Medicine.

His case was deliberately overstated but it was the key question during the discussion of risk factors to which the whole congress was devoted. The question was meant to provoke and there is a degree of justification for it. All the same behind it is lost by taking it literally.

Life in the civilised world since the beginning of the seventies at the latest - and this is true for the United States and most of Europe - is typified less by the consumption of all kinds of luxuries as by their abuse.

Taking people's eating habits first of all, one adult in two in Leipzig is overweight, Professor F. A. Gries, the Düsseldorf diabetic researcher, stated that he could quote similar figures for the

Federal Republic. But, he said, obesity is scarcely noticed here as it has become the norm.

This frequency does not alter the fact that obesity cuts life expectancy, and quite considerably so. Diabetes tops the list of risk factors - the danger to life is practically quadrupled.

Second place is taken up by high blood pressure and its close links with arteriosclerosis. It is often forgotten, even by doctors, that obesity precedes diabetes and never vice versa.

As the whole range of resulting conditions cannot be dealt with in this article, suffice it to say that obesity is an indirect pacemaker for various types of metabolic disorder for which excess weight is only the most noticeable symptom.

It is a well-known fact that obesity and diabetes are often found in the same person. But diabetes is less common in young people who are fat than in adults with the same condition.

Insulin sensitivity is reduced in two such important tissues as the muscle structure and the fatty tissue. It also poses a considerable risk factor for the occurrence of heart attacks.

The most promising treatment of obesity is the removal of the cause - a reduction of body weight, which can be achieved most effectively through fasting, Professor von Gies claimed. But a permanent cure can only be achieved by completely changing eating habits. This is where patients usually start to resist, however.

The more persistently a patient nubs the last remnants of his commonsense through the consumption of alcohol, the more uninhibitedly he progresses along the downhill path to self-destruction.

This is a great source of danger and its whole magnitude has yet to be recognised. It is senseless to set limits where the consumption of alcohol gradually becomes abuse. Professor G. A. Martini of Marburg provided his audience with a far clearer picture by describing the diseases resulting from the excessive intake of alcohol.

People who drink realise they have to reckon with the various stages of cirrhosis of the liver. What they do not know is that the liver usually outwits them in an extremely subtle fashion. Only one fifth of the liver tissue needs to be functioning for the patient to feel well - his decline is normally sudden.

People who drink also damage their heart in the same unsuspecting way. Serious, even fatal, disorders can result. Dr Walter Pöhlinger, a lecturer in psychiatry at Vienna University, stated that some twenty per cent of all Europeans abuse alcohol.

It is not only their liver cells that are affected. The ganglia cells in the brain are damaged and they decay, leading to a levelling off of the whole personality structure.

When too drink greater quantities of alcohol today. In this respect their emancipation had achieved considerable progress, Dr Pöhlinger commented. The person who gets drunk once every

blue moon is in far less danger than the secret though persistent consumer whom nobody has ever seen in a totally inebriated condition.

Only a few indications can be given here on what was said about drugs, nicotine and suicide. The fact that people who smoke die earlier is confirmed by all doubt.

Dr. Pöhlinger of the Schleiersche Klinik in Heidelberg put forward convincing evidence. Of eleven people who died of lung cancer, ten were smokers and only one a non-smoker.

Cigarette smoke is the greatest cause of pollution today and it is the number one risk factor for heart attacks. But what about drugs? One major danger is death through suffocation as a result of paralysis caused by an overdose.

This is particularly frequent with heroin which is blanded more and more as it passes along the supply chain until the consumer no longer knows the real concentration.

Although not necessarily a risk factor in the same sense as eating and drinking habits, the suicide risk cannot be excluded. Dr Pöhlinger stated that the patient is mainly affected are depressives, neurotics and addicts (those who are dependent on either drugs or alcohol) as the step outside reality into the unreality of intoxication or stupor is only a preliminary stage toward the final step into the unreality of self-inflicted death.

Apart from the cases of aggressive suicide where the patient kills himself because of aggressive tendencies towards his own person, doctors are encountering an increasing number of cases where suicide is a cry for help.

People should always be taken seriously when they threaten to commit suicide. Anyone intending to commit suicide will usually carry it out. Alfred Pöhlinger (Hamburger Abendblatt, 30 March 1973)

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## ■ OUR WORLD

Incorrectly addressed -  
the letter still is there!

## WELT DER ARBEIT

Every day three quarters of a million letters are posted without sufficient address, but most of them reach their destination in any event. Postal detectives see to that.

A special room is available at post office headquarters in Frankfurt and visitors to it are checked before they are allowed in. Not even the Minister of Posts would be let in without being announced first. Behind the secret door there are desks piled up with letters and each day about 1,000 of them are opened officially.

In this special office seven officials of the postal research centre work under the leadership of postal inspector Hermann Schneider, 47. They are the first of their kind. They may not enjoy poking their nose into other people's affairs but it is their job to open letters not intended for them and read the contents, be it a love letter, a demand for payment or news of a happy event.

It is their duty, when having identified the origin of letters and if possible their intended destination, to forget everything they have read with one exception: letters containing threats of murder are passed on to the public prosecutor.

Herr Schneider said: "It is our job to not let the consequences of post office errors be carelessness and forgetfulness."

Last year the Bundespost carried 11,100 million letters. Of these 235 million were insufficiently addressed, that is to say 780,000 every day. Two per cent of all letters sent are not properly addressed. Friedrich Müller, Steinbach, Hauptstrasse 14, is the kind of address that gives postal detectives nightmares. There are 25 places in this country named Steinbach and each has, without doubt, a High Street. So for just 40 Pfennigs this letter may go all over the Federal Republic. Sooner or later the right Steinbach will be found and the post office will do the rest.

It is possible to find the addressee even if the envelope states only his name and the village where he lives without a street name. But in a city the size of Cologne where there are fifty Friedrich Müllers it is difficult to trace a person with such a common name.

Herr Schneider said: "When an addressee's name is unusual we go through telephone directories so as to find where the addressee lives. But if all else fails the letter is returned in sender."

Sometimes it is not possible to find even the sender. A number of organisations such as banks and lotto societies do not put their address on mail.

When post offices are faced with such mail that can go neither forward nor backwards they send it on to the research centre at one of the 22 main post offices in the country. Every year there are about 400,000 such problem letters not to mention packets and parcels. Each intensive investigation costs on average 1.50 Marks. The Ministry of Posts states: "We spend about 50 million Marks per year on research."

For this reason the detection service cannot be bothered with postcards and printed papers.

The largest postal research centre is the one in Frankfurt where 88,000 letters are opened each year. Frankfurt is also the central office for films and tapes that go astray.

Herrmann Schneider said: "Our acti-

vities resemble those of criminals." He and his colleagues can be proud of their successes. Thanks to their work sixty per cent of letters finally reach their destination. Only the imprint of the post office eagle and the stamp "officially opened to ascertain the recipient" reveal that the letter caused difficulty.

"If there is an address on the letter inside it is child's play," Herr Schneider said. And letters which include a telephone number are also easy to deal with.

Someone sent a 100 Mark note quite simply to Fräulein Rudolf, 6 Frankfurt. The letter inside said "Before you start your new job at Messrs So-and-So I am sending you back the money I borrowed." The postal detectives rang up the firm and Fräulein Rudolf received her money.

The postal detectives have become blasé. They are not surprised by anything any longer. One letter was sent to post restante in Frankfurt with the message that if it were not collected within five days it should be returned to sender - but the sender had not given his name or address.

There is a whole heap of envelopes without an address for either the sender or would-be recipient, but with the correct amount of postage on. Another pile is devoted to children's request letters without the address of the young sender and hopefully addressed to "The Christ Child" or the inevitable Father Christmas.

One letter arrived from Poland addressed "To V.W. printed in Germany". This was delivered as was the letter to "the ash-blond lady with the metal-rimmed glasses who sells cigarettes at the airport". Among the real rarities is a leaf from a rubber tree intended as a postcard and correctly franked with 30 Pfennigs. The address was "From Rosi to a young man called Willy".

A large container is kept available for the letters that cannot be delivered or returned. Each is neatly pigeon-holed and anyone who suspects a letter he has sent of having gone astray can have a search organised, although, as Herr Schneider says, few people know about this facility.

By comparing specific signs on letters lost and found it is often possible to get a letter if not to the addressee at least back to the sender.

Letters that go astray are kept for three months. After that time objects of value found in them are auctioned off. Proceeds from the auctions are given to the Post office welfare fund three years later. Herrmann Schneider groaned: "The number of problem letters is growing all the time. Foreign workers in this country

are responsible for many of them. Then there are the thousands of people who only use the posts once a year at Christmas. In the 12 months since they last sent a letter to long lost friends and relatives the addressee has often moved.

The post office detectives are still dealing with Christmas strays the following April. One particular problem is films and tapes, which are incorrectly packaged and come adrift in the posts. The detectives deal with a 1,000 of the former and 100 of the latter each month.

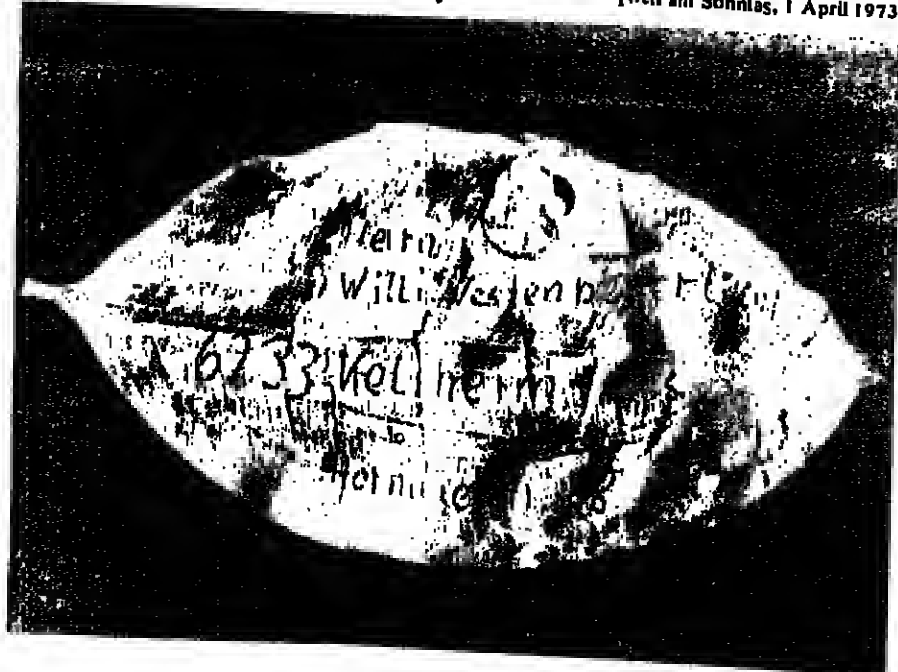
"We develop films in our laboratories and take careful note of what is on them. If we see telltale car-numbers or street names or plaques we can often find out who the film belongs to. One of our recent triumphs was on a picture showing a group of people with a diploma on the wall in the background. We enlarged this section as far as possible and discovered who the film belonged to via the guild in question."

The post office detectives recommend that when sending tapes and films through the post the sender should write his name and address or that of the recipient actually on the cassette.

For their pains the postal detectives receive many letters of thanks. One scientist wrote from Nepal thanking the post office for retrieving irreplaceable pictures of an expedition to Katmandu and saying that they had performed a great service to science.

One married couple in Italy whose wedding pictures were lost in the post wrote to the postal detectives and said that the next time any of them were in Italy they should call in for a glass of wine.

Horst Zimmermann  
(Welt am Sonntag, 1 April 1973)



## Indignant masseurs

Masseurs in Hesse have come strongly against massage that are not all they should be. In a Frankfurt newspaper the association which is part of a nationwide organisation to which all masseurs in the Federal Republic belong, listed their addresses of all recognised salons in Hesse.

The idea is to do battle with establishments that are no more thinly disguised cover for brothels.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 6 April)

## Sober workers

Professor Walter Delang, Dr speaking at the Giessen neurology conference called for a ban on drinking at work. The Professor claimed drinking at work could have a direct effect on the whole nervous system. A ban was placed on drinking at work would help reduce the amount of many heavy drinkers could consume.

According to scientific research conducted last year there was a considerable increase in the number of people who suffered from defects of the nervous system caused by drinking.

Professor Delang pointed out that alcohol caused not only brain damage but also affected the entire nervous system. Workers on a production line performing the same actions and motions time and time again are particularly threatened, according to scientific investigations. Their work means that alcohol they could be exposed to.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 April)

## University guide

The Further Education Association Bonn has published a survey of subjects available at universities colleges in the Federal Republic. The survey, published under the title *Fächerkatalog 72*, was commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Science and represents the first systematic survey of the subjects dealt with in teaching research work in the future of the sector. Some four thousand subjects are listed.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 March 1973)

## SPORT

## Sweeping changes in cross-country running

## WELT DER ARBEIT

The forty-sixth German cross-country championships, held in Markredwitz, Thuringia, were the last to be organised by existing laws. Ellen Titel of Garmisch and Lutz Philipp of Oarmisch were the final champions now that the annual general meeting of the Amateur Athletics Association has decided on the change.

The story would seem to be a typical one for sports disciplines that have originated in this country. Epoch-making developments have ended in dying the death.

Take rounders, for instance. At a time the game children still play with four lampposts as bases was no longer actively played in this country its American cousin, baseball, went from strength to strength.

Another example is handball, a game that evolved in Germany after the First World War, only to decline swiftly after the Second. Indoor handball, a faster version of the game, has been the death of handball on the full-sized pitch.

Old-style cross-country running has

now also bitten the dust. The first run was held in 1900 at Hohen Neuendorf, a northern suburb of Berlin, but for many years cross-country remained a part of winter training and races were held more or less informally.

Not until 1913 were the first national championships held in Grunewald forest, Berlin, the race starting and finishing in the newly-built Olympic Stadium, which was to have been the venue of the 1916 Olympics.

The first champion was Fritz Blankenburg of Berlin, runner-up Panly of Oresden.

The last championships for many years were held in Freiburg im Breisgau in 1936. The course was so strenuous that the powers that be in the world of sport took the opportunity of banning the championships because cross-country was allegedly too tough and made serious inroads on the summer season as a result.

It is one of history's strokes of irony that German cross-country is now to be replaced by international standards on the ground that it is no longer tough enough.

The difference between the two is that cross-country races in this country have so far used well-marked paths as courses whereas the internationally current version of cross-country is more of a natural obstacle race across open country.

In Belgium, France and Britain, where cross-country has been popular for decades, the course often crosses steep sandy slopes, felled trees and bams. Instead of well-trodden woodland paths the course will cross ploughed fields and rain-sodden meadows.

As a result cross-country takes its toll and calls for outstanding performances in terms of fitness and condition. Competitors from this country in international events have never managed to outrun their opposite numbers from elsewhere in Western Europe or North Africa. Spanish long-distance runners have probably done so well in recent years because of their cross-country practice. In the past this country has been represented almost exclusively by the Bundeswehr.

International - style cross-country running being promoted pretty well only in the armed forces. Cross-country calls for specialists since its requirements differ from those of track-racing. Medium- and long-distance runners have in the past found it evidently so easy to pick up cross-country championship titles on the side during the winter that the version that has just

been abandoned cannot have been particularly difficult for track runners. By promoting the tougher version of cross-country this country hopes to breed a reservoir of tough, long-distance talent such as is similarly promoted in Britain, Belgium, Spain, Tunisia and so on. The change may strike traditionalists as rather sad but it is necessary. Woodland training and small-scale events in preparation for the summer season will still continue.

Willy B. Wanige  
(Welt der Arbeit, 6 April 1973)



Cross-country champion Lutz Philipp

(Photo: Harsmiller)

## Too many sports clubs are in financial trouble

By the end of the decade some thirty million people in this country will be involved in some kind of sporting activity, yet thousands of sports clubs in the Federal Republic are on the brink of sporting and financial bankruptcy.

Are the 40,000 clubs affiliated to the Federal Republic Sports League (DSB) going to have to abandon their present status of being, for the most part, groups of enthusiasts and transform themselves into a scene of the service trades instead?

These and other related topics were debated at a recent conference held in Barsinghausen by the public relations committee of the OSB.

Papers on the future of sport were read by DSB executive member Hans Hansen of Kiel, OSB General Secretary Karlheinz Gieseler of Frankfurt and Helmut Meyer of Frankfurt, director of the DSB competitive sport sub-committee.

Debates centred around the Sports Plan for 1980, and the discussions at Barsinghausen made it clear that sport in this country faces completely new developments. The Munich Olympics represented a watershed.

Karlheinz Gieseler called for a fresh

evaluation of the role of sport in society. He pointed out that there is no alternative to withdrawing support from thousands of clubs in order to ensure the survival of the fittest.

Hans Hansen of Kiel agreed with Karlheinz Gieseler that in future honorary officials will have to be assisted by full-time management. It must be borne in mind that the DSB's twelve million members are affiliated to eighty sports associations subdivided into 1,028 regions down to and including district level.

Professional organisation and improved training facilities are essential if clubs are to cope with the boom in membership. Otherwise industry will plug the gap and sport will be intererably commercialised.

Helmut Meyer dealt with the second stage in the promotion of competitive sport, which has just got under way. The emphasis is now on "points of support" and boarding schools rather than national training centres.

Meyer was most enthusiastic about the Max Ritter School in Saarbrücken, at which national swimming coach Horst Planert supervises the sporting emphasis on his particular sport.

Meyer was convinced that by 1980 competitive sport would have reached the stage at which training facilities for promising athletes would no longer be an inalienable database from their respective homes.

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Ellen Titel in action

(Photo: Nordbild)